

Application No. 09/623,756

Art Unit 1713

January 12, 2004

Reply to Office Action of September 12, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure currently of record with the amended Abstract. A new Abstract of the Disclosure is also attached hereto.

To a fluorine-containing polymer, 0.1 to 10% of a compound comprising an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal in terms of the number of atoms of the alkali metal or the alkaline earth metal based on the total number of the above terminal groups, 0.1 to 10% of ammonia in terms of the number of ammonia molecules based on the total number of the above terminal groups, or 0.1 to 10% of a compound having an ammonium group in terms of the number of the ammonium groups based on the total number of the above terminal groups is added, and heated at a temperature of at least 200°C in an atmosphere containing moisture. By this process, unstable terminal groups such as terminal carboxylic acid groups and coloration caused by such terminal groups are effectively removed from the fluorine-containing polymer, and furthermore unstable bonds in the backbones can be removed. The obtained fluorine-containing polymer contains 1.0×10^{13} spins/g or less of unpaired electrons on the carbon atoms in terms of a spin density measured with spin resonance at a temperature of 10K.